

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3807

February 15, 2011

**PROTECT OUR TROOPS IN THE FIELD, OPPOSE ANY CUTS OR ELIMINATION TO THE V-22
OSPREY PROGRAM**

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to express my support for the V-22 Osprey program and urge you to oppose any amendments in H.R. 1 that would cut or eliminate this vital program.

The success of this program has been validated by commanders in the field and the V-22 has been given high marks for the operational advantages it brings to combat operations. Since 2007, the MV-22 and CV-22 have undertaken 14 successful deployments, including in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), multiple Air Force Special Ops deployments, and provided crucial humanitarian support in rural areas of Africa and Haiti that conventional helicopters could not reach.

The V-22 Osprey presents unparalleled flexibility for Marines and Air Force Special Forces in combat operations. As a tiltrotor aircraft, the V-22 combines the vertical takeoff and landing characteristics of a helicopter with the speed and range advantages of a turbo prop airplane. With unprecedented speed and greater range, the V-22 is performing day and night raids and assaults, providing MEDEVAC capabilities to our wounded soldiers, and offering cargo transportation capabilities over greater distances than any conventional helicopter – all which would be impossible to accomplish with the current helicopter platforms.

Additionally, **the V-22 is the most survivable rotorcraft ever built for the Marine Corps and Air Force Special Ops.** The ability to rapidly insert and extract personnel and its relative quietness entering a combat zone allows the V-22 to successfully complete missions without significant damage. Even when the enemy has been able to hit the V-22 with ground fire, the aircraft has absorbed the damage and returned to base without injuries to passengers or crew on every occasion.

Eliminating V-22 funding would affect roughly the 6,500 employees that directly work on the V-22 program, and thousands of other businesses that supply and support the program would lose work as well. Cutting this program will take away high-paying jobs and add to unemployment at a critical time in our economic recovery. Our Congressional priority should be on creating and preserving jobs, not destroying them.

The V-22 program combines functionality and unparalleled flexibility in real-world combat situations. We cannot deny our men and women on the battlefield this crucial piece of equipment or afford to cut any part of the V-22 program. Please OPPOSE any amendment that cuts or eliminates this vital program. If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to contact Maribeth Collins with Congressman Meehan at 202-225-2011 or maribeth.collins@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress